

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 NSC-10 PM-07 OMB-01 EB-11

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8131

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJ: LOCAL ELECTION RESULTS, NOVEMBER 11

1. LDP BACKED CONSERVATIVES WON SEVEN OF EIGHT MAYORALTY ELECTIONS CONDUCTED NOVEMBER 11, DEFEATING PROGRESSIVE CANDIDATES BACKED JOINTLY BY ALL OPPOSITION PARTIES. CONSERVATIVES WON IN NAGANO AND UEDA (BOTH NAGANO PREFECTURE), SHINJO (YAMAGATA), TSURU (YAMANASHI), TAKEFU AND OBAMA (BOTH FUKUI), AND IZUMISANO (OSAKA) BUT LOST IN KOSHIGAYA, BEDROOM SUBURB OF TOKYO LOCATED IN ADJACENT SAITAMA PREFECTURE.

2. DOUBLE VICTORY IN NAGANO CAPPED HEAD-ON CLASH BETWEEN LDP AND OPPOSITION PARTIES WHICH FEATURED CAMPAIGN APPEARANCES BY PRIME MINISTER TANAKA, EPA DIRECTOR ZENTARO KOSAKA AND LDP POLICY BOARD CHAIRMAN TADAO KURAISHI, LATTER TWO BEING VETERAN LOWER HOUSE MEMBERS ELECTED FROM NAGANO FIRST DISTRICT. JSP CHAIRMAN TOMOMI NARITA AND SENATOR MASASHI ISHIBASHI CAMPAIGNED FOR PROGRESSIVE CANDIDATES. CONSERVATIVE INDEPENDENT MASAYUKI YANAGIHARA AND LDP CANDIDATE IZUMI ISHII WERE ELECTED MAYORS OF NAGANO AND UEDA, RESPECTIVELY. LDP PARTICULARLY PLEASED AT VICTORY IN UEDA, WHICH ENDED 14 YEARS OF RULE BY

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PROGRESSIVE MAYOR.

3. PROGRESSIVE SHIGEHARU KURODA, BACKED BY ALL FOUR OPPOSITION PARTIES, DEFEATED INDEPENDENT CONSERVATIVE SUPPORTED BY LDP IN BEDROOM SUBURB KOSHIGAYA.

4. COMMENT: PATTERN OF RESULTS DEMONSTRATES ABIDING LDP STRENGTH IN PREDOMINANTLY RURAL OUTLYING AREAS. HOWEVER, KOSHIGAYA OUTCOME DEMONSTRATES CONTINUING VULNERABILITY OF LDP IN URBAN AND SUBURBAN AREAS TO COMBINED OPPOSITION CAMPAIGN BASED ON ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES OF RAPIDLY INCREASING POPULAR CONCERN. LDP DILEMMA HAS BEEN EPITOMIZED THIS PAST WEEK BY SERIOUS INTRA-PARTY DEBATE OVER QUESTION OF AGAIN RAISING CONSUMER RICE PRICE, WITH YOUNGER LDP DIETMEN FROM URBAN AREAS (I.E., HAJIME ISHII - KOBE) ARGUING VEHEMENTLY AGAINST ANY DECISION BY GOJ TO RAISE RICE PRICE FOR PREDOMINANTLY URBAN CONSUMERS TO OFFSET COST OF INCREASED BENEFITS BESTOWED ON RURAL RICE PRODUCERS.
SHOESMITH

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